

RESPONSE

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/488,971

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 3, 8 - 10, 15 - 17, 22, 24, 26, 28 - 29, 32 - 33, 36 - 37 and 40 - 41 are present in the subject application and have been allowed.

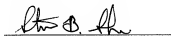
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Notice of Allowance received for the subject application.

However, it appears that an IDS form initiated by the Examiner was not received in response to an IDS filed November 26, 2003. Examiner Bashore was contacted regarding this IDS and indicated to Applicants that the IDS does not appear in the record. The Examiner was informed that that Applicants possess a stamped filing receipt demonstrating the filing of the IDS. In view of the circumstances, Examiner Bashore further indicated that the IDS should be submitted for consideration along with the stamped filing receipt.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit herewith the IDS filed November 26, 2003, the filing receipt stamped by the USPTO acknowledging receipt of the IDS and copies of the non-patent publications for the Examiner's convenience and review.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the IDS and provide an indication of the consideration (e.g., initialed IDS citation form).

Respectfully submitted,



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